

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8961

INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 15167

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, PINT, MX

SUBJ: NEW MEXICAN SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS: LIC. SANTIAGO

ROEL GARCIARRREF: MEXICO 15158

1. LIC. SANTIAGO ROEL GARCIA, NEWLY NAMED SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, WAS BORN DECEMBER 4, 1919, IN MONTERREY, NUEVO LEON. HIS FATHER, LIC. SANTIAGO ROEL MELO, WAS A RESPECTED EDUCATOR, HISTORIAN, AND REVOLUTIONARY WHOSE BOOK MALENCHISMO NACIONAL IS CONSIDERED ANTI-US. HIS TEACHER-MONTER, SRA. PROFA. CONCEPCION GARCIA DE ROEL, IS STILL LIVING.

2. LIC. ROEL RECEIVED HIS LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NUEVO LEON (LOCATED IN MONTERREY) IN 1943 AND SINCE HIS GRADUATION HAS PURSUED CAREERS IN BOTH POLITICS AND EDUCATION. HE TAUGHT FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NUEVO LEON'S FACULTIES OF LAW, ADMINISTRATION AND COMMERCE, AND PHILOSOPHY, AND HE HAS GIVEN COURSES IN OTHER SCHOOLS IN BOTH MEXICO AND THE U.S. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF FIVE BOOKS ON HISTORY, LITERATURE, AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, INCLUDING A 1968 WORK PUBLISHED IN THE U.S. UNDER THE TITLE HISTORY OF MEXICAN CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCE: FROM ZITACUARO, 1811 TO QUERETARO, 1917.

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3. A FAITHFUL WORKER FOR THE PRI, HE WAS AN ALTERNATE

STATE (NUEVO LEON) DEPUTY IN 1961-1964, AN ALTERNATE FEDERAL SENATOR IN 1964-1970, AND A FEDERAL DEPUTY IN 1970-1973. HE SERVED AS THE STATE OF NUEVO LEON'S CHIEF JUDICIAL OFFICER FOR TEN YEARS AND HAS BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PRI'S INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL STUDIES.

4. AS A DEPUTY IN THE 1970-1973 NATIONAL LEGISLATURE, LIC. ROEL WAS PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTROAL COLLEGE, AND PRESIDENT OF BOTH THE COMMISSION OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE COMMISSION OF LEGISLATIVE STUDIES. HE WAS A LEADING PARTICIPANT IN THE US-MEXICAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCES AND ATTENDED THE 1972 INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS.

5. AN INTIMATE OF BOTH FORMER MEXICO CITY REGENT (MAYOR) OCTAVIO SENTIES GOMEZ AND PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO, LIC. ROEL WAS AN ADVISOR AT THE SECRETARIAT OF FINANCE UNDER THE PRESIDENT, AND DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, HE WORKED AND TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY WITH THE PRESIDENT IN HIS CAPACITY AS GENERAL COORDINATOR OF SPEAKERS. IN THE POST-ELECTORAL PERIOD, JLP ALSO SENT HIM ON TRIPS TO SPAIN AND INDIA AS HIS "PERSONAL OBSERVER."

6. IT IS REPORTED THAT HE ADMIRES THE US AND THAT HE HAS HAD FRINEDLY RELATIONS WITH THE PERSONNEL OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN MONTERREY. HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF AN INTELLECTUAL OF THE LIBERAL SCHOOL. ALTHOUGH MOST REPORTS DESCRIBE HIM AS HAVING A KEEN INTELLIGENCE, ONE REPORT CONSIDERS HIM AN "INTELLECTUAL LIGHTWEIGHT."

7. HIS AVOCATIONS INCLUDE READING, HUNTING, HIKING, DEBATING, AND FRUIT-FARMING, AND HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NUEVO LEON.

8. LIC. ROEL IS MARRIED TO GLORIA RODRIGUEZ DE ROEL, DAUGHTER OF A MEXICAN AND AN IRISH MOTHER.  
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MRS. ROEL IS DESCRIVED AS AN "INTELLIGENT, ATTRACTIVE, VIVACIOUS, AND POISED" WOMAN WHO SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. THEY HAVE FOUR GROWN CHILDREN: GLORIA, CATALINA, LAURA, AND SANTIAGO. IN ADDITION TO HIS NATIVE SPANISH, LIC. ROEL SPEAKS ENGLISH, GERMAN, AND SOME FRENCH.

9. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL GOM BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF

LIC. ROEL WILL FOLLOW BY POUCH.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, PINT, MX, (ROEL GARCIA, SANTIAGO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006